

What has happened is that a certain part of the whole independent sector has been sectioned off, marked as the avant garde, and then treated as a self contained historical and aesthetic unit with its own aesthetic principles, audience, historical development and so forth. If there is a crisis in avant garde film it is in the resulting confusion. The whole line of realist development is first of all overlooked and then realism and independent documentary production is held off to the side. So that we have an avant garde without a realist strain. Similarly for dramatic narrative film, it too is isolated and put off to the side. This leaves us with a stripped down sector which is also constructed as having no relation whatsoever with video (except in antagonism).